Small businesses are the engine of America's economy. Over the last decade, small businesses created 70 percent of new jobs and are responsible for half of all jobs in the private sector. Are you a small business owner or are you considering starting your own business? Here are some helpful resources.

The <u>U.S. Small Business Administration</u> (SBA) is an independent agency of the federal government that helps Americans start, build and grow businesses. Through an extensive network of field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations, their mission is to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation.

The nearest SBA office is in Fresno and serves Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties.

## Fresno District Office

2719 North Air Fresno Drive, Suite 200 Fresno, CA 93727 559-487-5791 800-359-1833

Small Business Answer Desk at 1-800-8-ASK-SBA or (202) 205-7064 (fax). For the hearing impaired, the TDD number is (202) 205-7333.

## **Local Resources**

- Cabrillo College Small Business Development Center
- Monterey Bay SCORE
- Santa Cruz County SCORE

If you find that your questions are not answered here, please do not hesitate to contact my office. In the event you find yourself having a problem with a federal agency and require assistance, please fill out and sign a **privacy release form**.

## **Helpful Links**

- <u>Business.gov</u> Official business link to the U.S. Government
- <u>Service Corps of Retired Executives</u> (SCORE) offers volunteer mentors who share their hard-earned business expertise.
- <u>Small Business Development Centers</u> (SBDC) provides assistance to current and prospective small business owners.

## **Small Business FAQ's**

- Coming soon...